

FAX RECEIVED

MAY 06 2002

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE GROUP 1600

In re Application of: Nelson et al.  
Filed: Simultaneously Herewith  
Serial No.:  
For: Mass Spectrometric Immunoassay  
Atty. Docket No.: 530-013

OFFICIAL

Box Fee Amendment  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

*Duplicate*

## Preliminary Amendment

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-specified application, kindly amend the subject application as follows:

## AMENDMENTS

In the Specification:

As the first paragraph, please insert the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation of pending application serial no. 09/024,988  
filed on 02/17/98, which was a continuation of original application serial no.  
08/449,903, which was filed on 5/23/95, now abandoned.

In the Claims:

Please cancel the pending claims and include the following new claims:

- 48 A method for determining whether a specimen contains a certain analyte species, comprising the steps of:
- a. capturing and isolating the certain analyte species from the specimen, said step of capturing and isolating involving the use of an affinity reagent having a specific affinity for the certain analyte species;